GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2442
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
MIGRATION OF BENGAL TIGERS
Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the reported migration of the Bengal Tigers of Sunderbans in West Bengal to Bhutan;

(b) if so, whether the Government has verified such reports;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check this migration;

(d) whether the Government has conducted a census of the tigers in Sunderbans; and

(e) if so, the total number of tigers in Sunderbans and the steps being taken to increase their numbers?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAINMEENA)

(a) This Ministry has not received any report of tigers from Sundarbans migrating to Bhutan.

(b)&(c) Questions do not arise.

(d)&(e) The State Government conducts estimation of tigers and other wild animals periodically. The population of tigers, based on the All India Estimation as reported by States since 1972 is at Annexure-L The steps taken by Government of India for tiger conservation are at Annexure-ll.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABKA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2442 REGARDING MIGRATION OF BENGAL TIGERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 13-03-2006.

S.NO.	NAME OF RESERVE	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1995	1997	2001-02
1.	SUNDERBANS (WEST BENGAL)	60	205	264	269	251	242	263	245

ANNEXURE-ll

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2442 REGARDING MIGRATION OF BENGAL TIGERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 13-03-2006.

Steps taken by the government for protection and conservation of tigers and other wildlife are as under:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest degree of protection.

(iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

(iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehended and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

(ix) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(x) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

(xi) Action has been taken for implementing the urgent recommendation of Tiger Task Force and creation of National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.